**Use of foreign exchange earnings by exporters to import consumer goods**

2346: SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to allow exporter to use over 5 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings to import consumer goods after receipt of sanction from the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, details of the said plan;

(c) what are the details of the said amount utilised item-wise;

(d) whether I.M.F. is also convassing for import of consumer goods out of foreign exchange income of exporters;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) whether Government would consider such suggestion of I.M.F.; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Special import Licence Scheme Permits, *inter-alia*, import of certain consumer goods/consumer durables, which are otherwise covered in the Negative List of Imports of the Exim Policy. This benefit is allowed for Deemed Exports, Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and manufacturers who have acquired internationally recognised certification of quantity.

(c) Statistical data relating to import of items against individuals import licences is not maintained.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Does not arise.

**EXPORT OF SPICES**

2347. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity and value of export of spices during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large untapped export market for spices and if so, what special efforts are being made by Govt. to increase the export of spices;

(c) whether it is a fact that the productivity level of most of the spices in India is below the level of many spice producing countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details and whether any steps are being taken by the Spices Board to boost the productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Quantity and value of total spices exported during 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as follows:—

| Year | Qty. (MT) | Val. (Rs. Cr.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 1,30,567 | 362.04 |
| 1992-93 (April-January) | 84,040 | 263.13 |

(b) With a view to explore the untapped markets such as African countries, along with increasing export to established markets, the Spices Board has evolved a three-pronged approach to:

(1) identify countries where the performance has been good and making special efforts in these markets to improve the performance further.

(2) identify new countries where some beginning can be made.

(3) to identify areas where quick results can be achieved to make-up the shortfall. Various steps to boost exports of spices include:

sending of delegations to selected markets; inviting buyers from selected markets to India; participation in selected International fairs; publicity through various media on Indian spices; promotion of spices in branded consumer packs to create identity for the products; promotion of Spices Board quality logo to promote quality and Indian-ness etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For increasing the production and productivity of spices, a Central Sector Integrated Programme for the development of spices is being implemented. Various measures include:

(i) production and supply of planting materials;

(ii) establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots;

(ii) distribution of input kits and plant protection sprayers; and

(iv) irrigation and land development programmes etc.

**Incentives for export sector**

2348. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to announce many incentives for the export sector;

(b) if so, by when these are likely to be announced; and

(c) what are the sectors that are likely to be given priority for the export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Review of the Export and Import Policy is a continuous process and charges in the Policy are made as and when considered necessary.

**World Bank aid for rubber plantation**

2349. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned Rs. 20 crores for expansion of Rubber Plantation in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether the fund has been placed with the parties concerned for the purpose for which the fund was sanctioned;

(c) which are the organisations to be benefited by the Fund;

(d) in what manner the loan will be repaid;

(e) what will be the rate of interest on this loan;

(f) whether there are any prospects of getting more loans for rubber plantation in future; and

(g) what will be the Central Government involvement in this fund?